

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2343

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENT (CAM)

REF : OTTAWA 1077

FOR AGRICULTURE/FAS

1. SO FAR THE CAM LEADERSHIP IN ALBERTA, DESPITE PRESSURE FROM THEIR SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA COUNTERPARTS, IS TAKING A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE AND IS DISCOURAGING THE ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CAM STRIKE AND BOYCOTT NOW UNDERWAY IN SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA. CAM ORGANIZERS IN ALBERTA ARE STRESSING MORE TRADITIONAL METHODS OF COUNTERING SPIRALLING INFLATION, SUCH AS INCREASING EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTION RESTRAINT, AND PRICE SUPPORT LEGISLATION. THERE IS, NONETHELESS, WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AMONG ALBERTA FARMERS, INCLUDING NON-CAM MEMBERS, FOR THE GOALS OF THE CAM STRIKERS AND LAST WEEK'S REDUCTION IN CATTLE AND CALF (BY 50 PERCENT) AND HOG (BY 15 PERCENT) MARKETINGS IN EDMONTON SUGGESTS THAT INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS ARE WITHHOLDING STOCK FROM THE MARKET IN SOME PARTS OF THE PROVINCE. THE ALBERTA CAM POSITION ON THE STRIKE COULD CHANGE SINCE CAM LOCAL LEADERS HAVE PLANNED A NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE TO REVIEW THE

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SITUATION AND SET STRATEGY. (THEY WILL REPORTEDLY MEET WITH AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENT LEADERS IN CALGARY ON MARCH 11).

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ALBERTA FARMERS HAVE BEEN HIT BY AN INFLATION/PRICE SQUEEZE AS BADLY AS PRODUCERS IN OTHER PROVINCES, THEY HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SKEPTICAL OF MARKETING

BOARD APPROACH AND EFFICACY OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS. RISING CATTLE PRICES IN ALBERTA ALSO
SERVE TO LIMIT THE FARMER SUPPORT FOR THE CAM MILITANTS.
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